

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

- 5 A method is provided of establishing communication over a data network between endpoint systems using a service system that can set up a communication session with an associated transport mechanism allowing the exchange of data across the network between endpoint systems joined to the session by the service system. The method involves the service system processing a communication request from an initiating party by carrying out
- 10 one or both the routing steps of identifying an appropriate communication session and identifying a suitable further participant. The or each party is then joined to the relevant session.

15 **(Fig. 6)**

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